



Caribe General Electric Products Incorporated - Juana Diaz

EPA ID Number: PRD090282757

Other (Former) Names of Site

None

Site Description

Caribe General Electric Products, Inc. (CGEP) facility is located on State Road 149 at kilometer 67, in Juana Diaz. CGEP, Juana Diaz started operations in 1957 on the property of Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company, which was used at that time to grow sugarcane. CGEP later acquired the property in 1987. The Company currently handles electroplating of manufactured wiring devices. From 1957 to 1970 the company's west field was used as a receptor for processed defective mercury buttons. The wastes disposed at this landfill included plastic fragments, broken glass, mercury switch buttons, brass stampings and rubber. In 1982 the site was included in the national Pollutant Priority List. To the west of the facility is a residential area with a population of 10,000 inhabitants within 5 miles.

Site Responsibility

Cleanup at this site is being addressed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of the of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). However, the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB) participates with EPA in cleanup decision-making and oversight. In 1983 a CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act), also known as Superfund, Order was issued to CGEP requiring the Company to cleanup the contaminated landfill at the facility. Before cleanup, CGEP was required to conduct remedial investigation and study of alternative remedial actions (feasibility study).

In 1987 Caribe General Electric Products, Inc. (CGEP) requested a change in status from a Hazardous Waste Storage Area to a Hazardous Waste Generator facility, since the only RCRA unit at the facility was the container storage area for which CGEP submitted a closure plan. CERCLA (Superfund) therefore took responsibility for overseeing clean up of the landfill while RCRA was responsible for closure of the waste water treatment and the container storage areas.

Threats and Contaminants

A 1989 RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA) Report conducted by the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) in Puerto Rico identified nine solid waste management units (SWMUs) in three areas of the site. The three areas, the landfill for the defective mercury buttons, wastewater treatment area (WWTA) and the container storage area (CSA) required further investigation. The RFA determined that the landfill, WWTA and the CSA needed further investigation and cleanup.

Soil contamination at the Caribe General Electric Products site was due to poor waste management practices resulting from land filling mercury-contaminated buttons and inadequate containment system for the wastewater treatment area and the container storage area.

CLEANUP APPROACH

Cleanup Status/Corrective Action

The landfill is being addressed by EPA under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) authority, and the container storage area (CSA) by Caribe General Electric Products, with EPA oversight under Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Response Action Status

Entire site

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the facility was signed in November 1988. In the ROD, metal (mercury) extraction was chosen as the cleanup technology. Problems with this method led to a July 1999 amended ROD allowing cleanup by excavation and disposal of the soil and debris in a hazardous waste landfill located in Pinewood, South Carolina. Cleanup was completed in April 2000.

The container storage area has been closed by excavating the contaminated soil and back filling with clean soil. Closure certification was approved by Environmental Quality Board (EQB) in March 1991. The wastewater treatment area (WWTA) was investigated and Caribe General Electric Products (CGEP) submitted a WWTA assessment report in April 2001. EPA provided comments to CGEP on the report in August 2001 and requested CGEP to submit a closure plan for the WWTA. In December 2002, CGEP submitted a closure plan for the WWTA.



Nitric acid solution preparation



Acid solution scrubbing



Pumps cleaned of existing debris



Transfer of contaminated material

Cleanup Progress

Over 13,000 tons of contaminated soils and debris have been excavated from the landfill. The excavated materials will be disposed of at the RCRA landfill in Pinewood, South Carolina. The excavated landfill was backfilled with clean soil in April 2000.

Permit Status

This facility does not have a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit.

Site Repository

Copies of supporting technical documents and correspondence cited in the site fact sheet are available for public review at the following location:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
RCRA Records Center
290 Broadway, 15th Floor, Room 1538
New York, New York 10007-1866
Telephone: (212) 637-3043